RICE | CLIC
Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication

CHIN 211: Accelerated Elementary Chinese I, Fall 2017

Instructor: Yi-Chia Chien 簡翊家
Time: MWF; 2:00 - 2:50 p.m.
Location: Herman Brown Hall (HBH) 423
Office: Rayzor Hall 332
Office hours: M & W; 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment
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Course Description

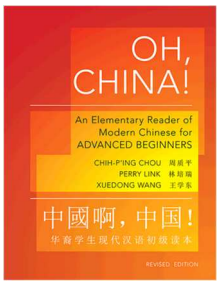
CHIN 211 is designed for students who are able to communicate orally in the area of daily routines but have limited knowledge of Chinese written language. The course utilizes students' prior knowledge of spoken language to advance them into more sophisticated command of oral language production, and focuses on the training of reading and writing skills through discussions on culture-related texts. Pinyin (Chinese romanization system), character knowledge, functional vocabulary and a review of useful structures will also be introduced.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- spell Mandarin Chinese in pinyin correctly;
- use knowledge of radical, sound, meaning and recurrent components, to learn to read and write characters;
- understand basic grammatical structures of Mandarin;
- present information on familiar topics with connected discourse;
- compose short paragraphs;
- develop and use the strategies of learning Chinese.

Course Materials



- Oh China! (中国啊，中国), by Chou, Link, and Wang, (9780691153087), revised edition
- Instructor-prepared materials

Course components

I. Attendance

Attendance is essential for success in this course. Excused absences are only allowed in the case of required participation in university-sponsored activities, observance of religious holidays or a serious and long-term illness. When such situations arise, email the instructor in advance. All other absences are considered unexcused absences. Each student would have **THREE** unexcused absences without penalty. Absences more than three times will lead to a drop by a third of your final grade (from A to A-, A- to B+, etc.). Students are responsible for catching up with the assignments if missing class.

II. Class Performance (15%)

The instructor assumes that students have previewed and completed the designated assignments before class and expects the class to function as an active learning community. Class Performance evaluates your preparedness, promptness, and participation in each class session, and the grades will be given based on the following criteria with a 3-point scale:

a) prepare well for the class before coming,
b) come to class on time,
c) listen attentively when others are speaking,
d) not checking or playing on cellphone during the entire class,
e) contribute actively in group activities or as a class with a positive attitude

Note:

- Coming to the class 10 minutes after class begins deducts 1 point.
- Excused absences get 2 points
- There are 35 sessions excluding exams and first week.

III. Homework assignments (25%)

Homework will be mostly based on the textbook exercise and it will be assigned daily but you only need to turn in your homework after we finish a lesson. Please refer to "weekly schedule" for due dates. There will be part of assignments that needs to be recorded orally. More instructions will be given in class. If you forget to bring your homework to class, take it to instructor's office before next class. Late homework gets no more than 60% of the full score.

IV. Quizzes (20%)

Quizzes on character recognition and production will be given **TWICE** for each lesson at the beginning of the class. See "weekly schedule" for test dates.

V. Exams (20%)

There will be **THREE** 50-minute exams this semester, each of which covers three lessons. In preparation for exam 2 and 3, you need to review vocabulary and patterns learned from the previous lessons.

Notes on make-up Quizzes and Exams:

Exams and quizzes must be taken on the assigned dates. Make-ups will not be accepted except in the case of a serious emergency and with proper documentation to justify the absence. If you know you will not be able to take a quiz or exam with excused reasons, you need to contact the instructor in advance to arrange an alternative date. If you have an unforeseen emergency on the day of the exam, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible.

VI. Oral reports (15%)

There are THREE oral reports in this course for you to demonstrate your presentational skills in Chinese. Potential topics will be discussed in class in consultation with the instructor. are welcome to use all kinds of aids, such as visual aids, handouts, or slides. More details will be given.

VII. Interview with the instructor (5%)

An oral interview will be given this semester on 11/22. The interview will be conducted between you and the instructor. The aim is to assess your spoken communicative competence developed in this semester. More details will be given.

VIII. Chinese table

You are required to participate in **THREE** sessions of Chinese Table. In the case of time conflicts, find a classmate or a native speaker to have a 30-minute conversation with and write a brief report on the conversation.

Time: 12-12:50 p.m. every Wednesday, starting from 9/6-11/27
(three weeks are on Mondays 9/18, 10/16, 11/27)

Place: #207 Hansen College

Grade distribution & scale

Class performance	10%	A+	99-100	C+	78-79
Homework assignments	25%	A	94-98	C	74-77
Quizzes	20%	A-	90-93	C-	70-73
Exams	20%				
Oral report	15%	B+	88-89	D+	68-69
Interview	5%	B	84-87	D	64-67
		B-	80-83	D-	60-63

University policies

Disability Accommodation

Students with a disability requiring accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the instructor after class or during office hours. Such discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Additionally, students also need to contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

Honor Code

Students' academic work and behavior in this class will be held to the highest standards of integrity and are governed by the Rice University Honor Code. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. You may consult with peers for homework and projects, but you may not copy someone else's work or have them do any part of it. Exams and quizzes must be completed under the Honor Code.

Weekly schedule

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Due dates
W1 8/21~	Course Intro. & discussion	Pinyin & Radical	Pinyin & Radical	
W2 8/28~	Pinyin & Radical	Pinyin & Radical	Pinyin & Radical	
W3 9/4~	Labor Day	L1 Quiz 1.1	L1	
W4 9/11~	L1 Quiz 1.2	L2 Quiz 2.1	L2	Wed: A1
W5 9/18~	L2 Quiz 2.2	L3 Quiz 3.1	L3	Wed: A2
W6 9/25~	L3 Quiz 3.2	Review	***Exam 1***	Wed: A3
W7 10/2~	L4 Quiz 4.1	L4	L4 Quiz 4.2	
W8 10/9~	Midterm recess	***Oral report 1***	L5 Quiz 5.1	Wed: A4
W9 10/16~	L5	L5 Quiz 5.2	L6 Quiz 6.1	Fri: A5
W10 10/23~	L6	L6 Quiz 6.2	Review	Fri: A6
W11 10/30~	***Exam 2***	L7 Quiz 7.1	L7	
W12 11/6~	L7 Quiz 7.2	***Oral report 2***	L8 Quiz 8.1	Wed: A7
W13 11/13~	L8	L8 Quiz 8.2	L9 Quiz 9.1	Fri: A8
W14 11/20~	L9	L9 Quiz 9.2	Thanksgiving	
W15 11/27~	Interview	***Exam 3***	***Oral report 3***	Mon: A9